

## ***Are You Concerned About the Future? By Dan Jenkins***

It was Jesus who described the final judgment and discussed the right hand and left hand of the Judge of all mankind. It is truly the most sobering thought that you and I will be there and hear the judgment given as to where we shall be forever and ever. Every person who has ever lived will be there, for the graves will have been opened. The Judge said, “The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth” (John 5:28 -29). Paul described it, “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body” (2 Cor. 5:10).

The universe, the heavens and the earth will have ceased. Their time of existence will terminate on that day of judgment (2 Pet. 3:7). This is the day “...in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10).

The judgment will take place, and like a shepherd in ancient days separated the sheep from the goats in his flock, so the Shepherd will separate the righteous from the ungodly. You and I will be placed with the righteous “sheep” on His right hand or the unrighteous “goats” on His left hand. The final judgment will happen in this way.

“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world’” (Matt. 25:34). His final message to those on His left hand will be, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41). You and I will hear one or the other of two sentences—“Come, you blessed of My Father,” or “Depart from Me, you cursed.” The reality of this time should impact every decision we make and the basis on which we make them.

Nothing in this material world will matter, for none of it will exist when Øme ends. Most people you know think about their future, and they only focus on and value these temporal things. Many have elevated their judgment about how to live each day, but the only truth about the future is the truth from God. You and I have a view of the future, but we must realize the truth about the future is found in the God of truth. One truth cannot be changed. You and I will without any doubt experience it. “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal” (Matt. 25:46). Think soberly about the closing words of Peter’s second epistle, “Since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?” (3:12).

Brushy church of Christ  
774 Hwy 48 South  
Centerville TN 37033



## **The Brushy Beacon**

### **“Let God’s Word Be Our Guide in 2025”**

### **December 14, 2025**

9 a.m. Sunday Bible Class

10 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship

6 p.m. Sunday Evening Worship

7 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study

**Elders**

Ricky Atkinson

James Atkinson

Tony Duncan

**Deacons**

Paul Johnston    Terry Banks

Justin Atkinson    Caleb Truett

Kevin Johnston

### **As the End Approaches by Dan Jenkins**

Perhaps it is because I am getting older, but it is hard to believe that another year is about to come to an end. To a four year old child, it takes “forever” for him or her to turn five. If you are 54, that time to 55 seems like a few months. If you are 74, it seems more like a few weeks! Just days before His death, Jesus spoke of the approaching end of Judaism and temple worship, and He gave eight signs that would be manifested before that time came. The eighth sign was that when the gospel would be preached to the world, then there would be an end (Matt. 24:14). In His trial, He told Caiaphas that starting that day of His trial the high priest would see the one he was killing coming and ruling in power (Matt. 26:64). When Paul wrote Colossians, he said that the eighth sign happened (Col. 1:23). It should not surprise us that both Peter and James talked about this end. James said that the end was at hand and that the Judge was standing at the door about to bring judgment (Jas. 5:8-9). Peter affirmed that the end was at hand (1 Pet. 4:7). Had you lived in that first century, you would have seen the signs being fulfilled as God destroyed the temple and brought about the end of Judaism. Thankfully, Peter then gave encouragement as to what to do when the end was at hand.

The application of Peter’s encouragement can impact us every time we see an “end” coming. As you age, you can see the end of your life approaching so rapidly. You attend the funerals of others (some even younger than you), and Peter’s words seem so appropriate. In a similar way, the end of 2025 would be a good one to see what Peter emphasized. First, Peter says to be sober, to be serious (1 Pet. 4:7). As a new year approaches, it would be wise to give serious thought as to how much you have grown spiritually. Are you closer to the Lord as this year ends than what you were when it began? Give serious thought to the direction of your life. Peter then says to be watchful in prayers. As the end approaches, spend time praying about dealing with temptations that surround you. Seriously pray about your life. Then Peter says that as the end approached there should be fervent love for each other. This love covers many of those awkward times of dealing with others. He specifically mentions hospitality. How much have you gone out of your way sharing times with others? As the end approaches, should you change how much time you spend with your brothers? Take time to read verses ten and eleven. You will be amazed seeing two other applications of what to do as the end approaches. There is an end approaching—be serious!

## *Family News & Notes*

**Welcome** We are so glad you are here and welcome you to a time of Bible teaching and worship. We hope you will come and worship with us again!

**Team 2 – Compassion Card Group** You will need to sign cards today. Please go to the Ladies Classroom following the morning worship service. It will not take you long. Please see Caleb and Paige if you have questions. Ella, Mabry, Nolan Ricky & Jo Kevin, Amy, Trey, Caden Devin & Gracie Paul & Evelyn Braxton, Madison, Houstyn, Oaklynn, and Breelynn

**Theme for 2026** All themes are due today! Please write down your ideas and give them to Ricky Atkinson by Sunday, December 14.

**Fruit Baskets** We will be preparing fruit baskets on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 5 P.M. in the Ladies Classroom. There are still items to be signed up for on the list of items needed. Please see Pamela or Amy if you have questions or would like to donate money for items.

**Christmas Caroling** We will meet at the Annex after putting baskets together to eat pizza and go Christmas Caroling. If you plan to go caroling, please sign the sheet on the table. If you would like for us to come sing to you, please sign the sheet on the table! We appreciate Caleb & Paige for taking care of this.

**From Iran to Faith...** On Sunday morning, December 28, all classes from 3rd Grade and up will stay in the Auditorium. A student from Freed-Hardeman University, Nima Afsari, will share about his conversion to the Lord, “From Iran to Faith: God’s Providence in My Story” as he is interviewed by David Shannon. We hope you will plan to attend to hear this story of redemption.

**Prepare the Lord’s Supper** There is a list on the bulletin board for those who wish to help prepare the Lord’s Supper for 2026. If you are interested but have never done it before, see Kim Atkinson for a recipe and instructions. It is a vital part of our worship and so deeply appreciated. Thanks to those who have been and are willing to help and serve in this way!

**A new Adult Bible Class...** will begin on Sunday, January 4, with Kevin teaching. It will be located in the Young Adult classroom. If you have questions or want to know more, see Kevin.

**A Happy Anniversary to...** David & Jeannine Grimes...December 20

**Compassion Cards** Our mission continues—to reach those who are outside of Christ. We are committed to sharing the Gospel and studying God’s Word with as many souls as we can. Take a moment to think about the people in your life who need to know Jesus. Who could we reach through a kind card, an act of benevolence, or a Bible study? Write their name on a card and place it in the box. Let’s work together to bring others to Christ.

**Consider how you can have peace this week! ~ Peace Grows as We Live in Harmony With Others.** *“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”* — Romans 12:18 Peace is not only internal—it shows in our relationships. Christ calls us to pursue peace, forgive quickly, and seek reconciliation. Spiritual maturity grows when we work for unity. *Take the first step toward peace with someone—offer forgiveness, make a call, or speak a gentle word.*

## *Pray for Those Sick Among Us...*

**Tony Duncan** is recovering after having ankle surgery.

**Elaine Jones.** sister of Louise Adams, is preparing to have surgery on December 19.

**Deborah Roberts** daughter of Glenda Tanner, is improving at home after surgery.

**Kim Pace** sister of Tammy Forrester, will have surgery on December 17.

**John Patterson** coworker of Justin Atkinson, is doing well after surgery.

**Robin Walters** is taking chemo for cancer and will have surgery.

**Maury Colvett** cousin of Nancy Bryant, is recovering at home after having heart surgery.

**Carl Smith** grandfather of Gracie Johnston, is in the hospital & will have surgery soon.

## *Continuing Prayer Requests*

*Dealing with Cancer* - Glen Herrington

*Special Requests* - Miranda Smith, Judy Goodman, Annis Womack, Karen Bowen, Vera Woods, Paul Johnston, James & Helen Bryant

## *Pray for Those in Nursing Homes*

Community Living Center in Murfreesboro... Fred Bowman

## *Ongoing Prayer Reminders*

- All in the military and civil workers overseas and their families right.
- All those Preaching and teaching the Good News all over the world.
- Our Government Leaders – Local, State, and National (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Our Elders and Deacons who oversee, care for, serve, and feed us spiritually. (Heb. 13:7)

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As we look to a new year is a great time to renew our commitment to live faithfully for Christ each day. Scripture reminds us, *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Rather than following the patterns of the world, we seek to walk in obedience to God’s Word, growing in holiness and good works. Let’s set our hearts on honoring the Lord in our conduct, trusting that *“he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 1:6).

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## *Upcoming Events*

\*Wednesday, December 10 ~ Monthly Wednesday Fellowship Meal at 6 P.M. - Menu on Table

\*Thursday, December 18 ~ Fruit Baskets at 5 P.M. with Pizza at the Annex & Caroling afterwards

\*Sunday, December 28 ~ 4th Sunday Singing Night

## *For the Record*

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Sunday Morning Worship

Sunday Evening Worship

XX

Wednesday Evening

Contribution \$1851